

## MSA SCBA Equipped with AirFrame<sup>TM</sup> Carrier & Harness Assembly



### Public Employee Safety & Health Bulletin **ATTENTION: All Public Employers** October 2006

This notice is to warn of the potential for injuries resulting from a separation of the MSA AirFrame Carrier & Harness Assembly with the optional Swiveling Lumbar Swivel Support Bracket. Please ensure that the warning and the safe practices below are shared with all fire service, law enforcement and industrial personnel who use this equipment.

### **WARNING**

**Cracks may develop in the swiveling lumbar support bracket causing a sudden separation of the bracket from the AirFrame Carrier & Harness**

The Office of Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health has received reports regarding the cracking of the optional **Swiveling Lumbar Support Bracket** where it connects to the AirFrame **Carrier and Harness Assembly** of the **MSA FireHawk<sup>®</sup> Air mask**. The cracks occurred on the support bracket, at the attachment nut. Should a crack develop, the nut can pull through the bracket and cause the lumbar support bracket to separate from the carrier / harness assembly. If this failure occurs while dragging, the unit is pulled up toward the victims head and the chest strap can injure the victim's neck.

The models in question are the MSA FireHawk, BlackHawk<sup>®</sup> and AirHawk<sup>®</sup> Air Masks with the AirFrame Carrier & Harness Assembly. Those having units with the optional **Swiveling Lumbar Support Bracket** should contact MSA at 1-877-MSA-3473 for recommendations regarding inspection of these units after each use and monthly. If cracks are found remove the SCBA from service and notify your local MSA Certified Service Center and **PEOSH at 609.292.3749**.

#### **MSA issued an Important Safety Reminder Dated May 27, 2005 concerning the pulling/lifting capacity of the Air Frame Carrier and Harness**

The reminder states: ***"The AirFrame Carrier and Harness Assembly has an attachment point at the top of the Carrier and Harness Assembly. The AirFrame's centrally located carabineer attachment point was designed for rescue rope attachment to horizontally drag or pull a firefighter to safety and is rated for 1000 pounds load. The side handles were designed for carrying the Air Mask and for use when donning and doffing the apparatus. These were tested for dragging purposes as well, with a rating of 400 pounds for each handle (or 800 pounds combined).***

***It is important to note that these points of attachment have not been designed for vertical raising or lowering, but only for horizontal dragging or pulling a firefighter to safety. The same is true for any of the MSA Carrier / Harness Assemblies (Black Rhino and Vulcan) with regard to the raising or lowering of a firefighter".***

An updated Safety Reminder concerning this issue is being prepared by MSA and will be out shortly.

**Swivel Lumbar Support**



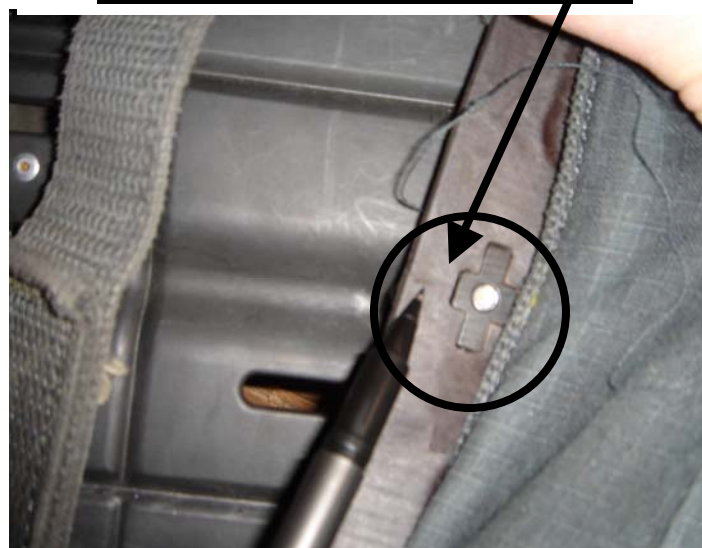
**Crack in Swivel Lumbar Support**



**Some Cracks Are Very Apparent**



**Hairline Cracks Are Hard To See**



**Crack From Pulling & Dragging**



**Crack At Lumbar Support Caused Separation Failure**

